

John Hanna House  
(Samuel Haussener House)  
Township Route 359, approx. 1,700 feet  
west of Water Street  
Lock Haven Vicinity  
Clinton County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5525

HABS  
PA  
18-LOKHAN,  
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106



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# HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JOHN HANNA HOUSE  
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Location: Township Route 359, approximately 1,700 feet west of Water Street, Lock Haven Vicinity, Clinton County, Pennsylvania

USGS Lock Haven Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator  
Coordinates: 18. 293850. 4557640

Present Owner  
and Occupant: Samuel Haussener  
P.O. Box 1522  
Lock Haven, PA 17745

Present Use: Residence.

Significance: The early-nineteenth-century John Hanna House is significant for its association with the Hanna family, for its architectural style and materials, and for its age. The Hanna family was the principal landowning family throughout the nineteenth century in the Upper Lockport and Monseytown Flats areas of Woodward Township. John Hanna, an early settler, purchased 6,800 acres in 1801 and built the John Hanna House. His ancestors continued to occupy the land for approximately 150 years. Additionally, the community of Upper Lockport was developed from Hanna land. Specifically, William White, who developed Upper Lockport, purchased the land from John Hanna's son, Joseph. The John Hanna House is also significant for its distinctive Federal-style design and substantial stone construction, both rare in Clinton County. Lastly, the house is one of the few surviving examples in Woodward Township of a farmhouse built before the introduction of the West Branch Canal in the 1830s (see HAER No. PA-188). The building also pre-dates the founding of Lock Haven and Woodward Township, which occurred in 1833 and 1841, respectively. Samuel Haussener, the current owner of the house, performed extensive alterations to the house and is responsible for its present appearance.



PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The middle section, or hyphen, of the house was most likely built circa 1801, soon after the land was purchased by John Hanna. The front, or main, section of the house was built in 1813, as evidenced by a datestone in the east wall, near the roof peak, bearing the legend, "J.H. 1813." The rear kitchen section was added to the building in 1971.
2. Architect: Most likely, John Hanna was the builder of the house and an architect was not involved.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description from the most recent deed: Northwardly by lands now or formerly of Ralph Dixon, Ward, Herman, Jacob Shoemaker and Albert Shadle; Eastwardly by lands formerly of Rudolph Widmann Estate and the Public Road; Southwardly by the West Branch of the Susquehanna River; and Westwardly by land formerly of W. A. Hanna Estate, now of Joseph B. Hanna. Containing one hundred thirty-three (133) acres, more or less.

References are to deeds filed at the Clinton County Recorder of Deeds, Lock Haven, Pennsylvania.

- 1801 Deed, April 29, 1801, recorded in Book 4, Page 250.  
James Smith to John Hanna.
  - 1851 Will, March 20, 1851, recorded in Will Book A, Page 74.  
John Hanna to Joseph Hanna.
  - 1879 Joseph Hanna died May 9, 1879.  
Joseph Hanna to Elizabeth Cummings, William Hanna, Mary Hanna and Robert Hanna. (With this transaction, the farm is split into three separate farms.)
  - 1897 Will, December 14, 1897, recorded in Will Book D, Page 50.  
Mary B. Hanna to William Hanna.
  - 1911 Will, February 21, 1911, recorded in Will Book F, Page 345.  
William Hanna to Joseph B. and William F. Hanna.
  - 1948 Deed, April 20, 1948, recorded in Volume 162, pg 61.  
William F. Hanna to Samuel P. Haussener.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: John Hanna most likely built the original section and, as evidenced from the datestone, the 1813 section as well.
  5. Original plans and construction: The original plan of the house consisted of the present middle section and, possibly, a rear kitchen section. According to the current owners, the present kitchen was built on the exact location of a previous kitchen. It remains uncertain if the original kitchen dated to the circa 1801



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construction of the middle section or to a later date. The owners also alluded to there once being a double fireplace in the house. The location of an original brick chimney on the roof ridge of the middle section, near the present kitchen, hints that this once was the location of a fireplace. The chimney is now used for a wood-burning stove in the kitchen. It is possible that the kitchen was built in 1813, when John Hanna extended his house.

The middle section is 1 1/2 stories, with one large room on the first floor, a closed stairway against the north wall, and two bedrooms on the upper floor. On the exterior, there are stone walls on the first story and frame walls on the second story. Through additions, this section has since been incorporated into the larger house, and has almost certainly been altered with regard to room partitions.

6. Alterations and additions: The present residence consists of three additions to the original circa 1801 building: the 1813 Federal-style front section, a decorative late-nineteenth-century porch, and a rear kitchen. The front section is a three-bay, 2 1/2 story, side-gabled fieldstone building connected to the middle section on both the first and second floors. In 1971, the current owner, Samuel Haussener, removed a historic kitchen section and built the current kitchen in the same location.

On the east facade of the middle section, a porch was altered, as is evident by "scars" on the front section's stones. Apparently, the porch roof was lowered and wrought iron supports were added. This probably occurred in 1971, when the present rear kitchen was added, because the porch extends between the hyphen and the kitchen. Another alteration is the addition on the front section of an exterior brick chimney. A door frame on the interior indicates that the location of the chimney was once the probable location of a doorway.

#### B. Historical Context

John Hanna was a surveyor from Pine Creek Township when, in 1801, he purchased a large tract of land in Woodward Township from James Smith for the sum of \$6,400. Upon Hanna's purchase, he probably built the middle frame-and-stone building, and later, in 1813, he built the more substantial Federal-style fieldstone section. As a surveyor, Hanna surveyed much of the land at Kettle Creek, above Renovo. Hanna also owned land in Wayne and Bald Eagle Townships, apparently acquiring these lands as a result of his survey activities. Hanna's Woodward land purchase now encompasses Upper Lockport and that area northwest of Upper Lockport known as Monseytown Flats. John Hanna represents the first generation of the Hanna family to live in the Lockport area. A large portion of Hanna's original purchase was passed down through a number of Hanna generations. Nathaniel Hanna, the developer of a separate parcel in Lower Lockport, was a relative, but not a direct descendant, of John Hanna.

Hanna died in 1851 and left one-half of the property to one of his sons, Joseph W. Hanna, and the other half to two of his grandsons, John B. and Robert. In 1855, the grandsons sold their portion to Joseph W. Hanna for \$12,000. Joseph, like his father, was a surveyor as well as a farmer. According to the 1850 agricultural census, the Hannas had the largest farm in Woodward Township with 200 acres of improved land, valued at \$16,000. They grew wheat, oats, Indian corn, and potatoes, and produced 750 pounds of butter. When Joseph died in 1879, the property was divided into three farms. Many of the same crops were grown as in 1850, however, tobacco was also introduced. His daughter,



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Elizabeth Cummings, received the upper farm. A son, William Hanna, acquired the middle farm (HABS No. PA- 5526), and the lower farm was received by Mary and Robert Hanna, sister and brother. The lower farm was the location of the John Hanna House. In 1897, Mary Hanna passed her portion of the farm to her brother, William Hanna, uniting the lower and middle farms. The fourth generation of Hanna ownership was represented by two of William Hanna's children, Joseph B. and William F. Hanna. According to the current owner, Samuel Haussener, William F. Hanna lived in the residence adjacent to the John Hanna House between 1911 and 1948 and rented the John Hanna House. Apparently, in 1926, Joseph B. and William F. Hanna bought out the remaining shares of the upper farm, fully uniting the original tract purchased by John Hanna in 1801. Samuel Haussener purchased the property from William F. Hanna in 1948 and continues to reside in the John Hanna House.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The John Hanna House essentially consists of three parts arranged in an "H" formation. The front section is a side-gabled, three-bay by two-pile, 2 1/2-story Federal-style fieldstone building. The two-story, three-bay middle section has a first story constructed of fieldstone and the second story constructed of wood frame members. The rear section is a one-story, single-bay, non-historic addition containing the kitchen.
2. Condition of fabric: Good condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The John Hanna House consists of three sections. The front section measures approximately 32'8" across the front facade and approximately 27' on the side facade. The middle section is approximately 22'8" wide and approximately 27' on the side facade. The rear section measures approximately 25'8" across the rear facade and approximately 19'8" on the side facade. The rear porches are approximately 5' wide. The garage measures approximately 27'5" x 49'5", and the chicken coop measures approximately 27'5" x 10'. The tobacco barn measures approximately 26' x 21'.
2. Foundations: Masonry foundation.
3. Walls: The front section has roughcut, uncoarsed fieldstone walls which, according to the current owner, are 24" thick. Larger stones are arranged in such a fashion at the corners as to appear like quoins. The middle section has similar fieldstone walls on the first floor, and flush vertical wooden siding on the second floor. The rear kitchen has aluminum siding on its exterior walls.
4. Structural systems, framing: Masonry load-bearing walls on the front section and first floor of the hyphen. The second floor of the hyphen has wood framing, most likely timber frame, with tongue-and-groove vertical board siding. The rear kitchen utilizes balloon framing and is sheathed with aluminum siding.



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5. Porches, stoops, balconies, bulkheads: The front facade has a open wooden post porch with a hipped roof, located at the easternmost bay. The porch has two bevelled square posts and two bevelled half-posts, elaborate scrollwork and brackets, and asphalt roofing. The posts have simple capitals and no bases. On the east facade of the middle and rear kitchen sections is a long, one-story open porch with a shed roof. The porch has wooden plank floors and decorative wrought iron supports. The porch's shed roof was lowered, probably in 1971, when the present kitchen was built. A similar porch is located on the west facade of the middle section. In this instance, the porch does not extend to the rear kitchen section, and therefore, the roof has not been lowered. The western porch also has wood flooring and non-historic decorative wrought iron supports.
6. Chimneys: There are three corbelled brick chimneys on the John Hanna House. One is on the interior of the west facade of the main section, located on the roof ridge. A second is on the interior of the north facade of the middle section, located on the roof ridge. The third chimney has a large brick base and is the sole exterior chimney, located on the north facade of the main section, west of the middle section. The exterior chimney is not original and was probably built in the middle to late nineteenth century.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: There are six exterior doorways on the John Hanna House. The main entrance consists of a three-piece, simple trim surround with a transom and a solid four-panel door with a porcelain handle. The door is inset and framed with inlaid panels. The middle section or hyphen contains three doorways: two on the east facade (one is no longer used as a door), and one on the west facade. All three doorways have a simple surround and a solid six-panel door. The rear kitchen section contains two non-historic doors. On the front section, where the present exterior chimney is located, a door frame on the interior indicates that this was once the probable location of a doorway.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Original six-over-six double-hung windows with storm sash are located on the front and middle sections. The rear kitchen addition has one-over-one aluminum windows. On the front facade, the wooden window surrounds have a small entablature lintel. Shutter hinges remain on the window surrounds. A single louvered shutter is located on the east facade of the rear section.
8. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Gable roofs are located on the front and middle sections, as well as the rear kitchen addition. The front porch has a hipped roof and the two middle section porches have shed roofs. Standing seam metal roofing is located on the front gable, and asphalt shingles elsewhere.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Beaded cornice molding with returns.
  - c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: None.



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C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: See accompanying sketch plans.
2. Stairways: The original wooden staircase extends two floors and has landings and turnarounds. The design consists of a curved railing supported by turned post balusters and newel posts. The stairway has a decorative skirting and a beaded wall stringcourse, as well as extended treads.
3. Flooring: Standard-width hardwood flooring is located in the front and middle sections. The attic, located in the front section, has wider floorboards. The rear kitchen section has non-historic linoleum flooring.
4. Wall and ceiling finishes: Acoustical tile ceilings are located throughout most of the house, except for parts of the second floor and attic of the main section, where plaster ceilings are evident. Most of the walls have wallpaper over a plaster-and-lath finish. The rear kitchen section has gypsum board walls covered with wallpaper.
5. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The middle section originally had three exterior doorways, and one was adapted into a cabinet. The two remaining doorways are inset within the wide stone walls and have tongue-and-groove vertical board doors. As noted above, the exterior sides of these doors have six panels. Apparently, the exterior has applied panels, over the vertical boards, which were then painted. The main entrance has an architrave surround with a multi-light transom. Throughout the main section, the doorways have architrave surrounds and solid, four-panel doors. The main section attic door has nine lights over two panels. The rear section contains non-historic, flush doors.
  - b. Windows: Original six-over-six double hung windows with storm sash are located on the front and middle sections. The rear kitchen addition has one-over-one aluminum windows. The windows of the main section and the first floor of the middle section are inset within stone walls and have wide frames. The main section window openings have architrave surrounds.
6. Decorative features and trim: At the main section fireplace, there is a wooden mantelpiece that consists of a simple, unornamental three-piece frame and a thin mantel-shelf. The rear kitchen is non-historic except for a woodburning cooking stove dating from the late nineteenth century.
7. Hardware: Original hardware is located on the front and middle section doors. Hardware consists of wrought iron strap hinges, locks, latches, escutcheons, and skeleton keys. The main entrance door has a porcelain handle.
8. Mechanical Equipment:
  - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: It is speculated that originally there was a double fireplace located between the middle section and the original



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kitchen. Another fireplace was added in 1813 when the front section was built. It is unclear when the original double fireplace was removed. Presently, radiators are used to heat the house.

- b. Lighting: In the main section hallway, there is a suspended single light with a shade that appears to date from the late nineteenth century.
  - c. Plumbing: The plumbing system has been modernized. The only historic feature is the early-twentieth-century bathtub.
9. Original furnishings: As a result of changes in ownership, this survey found that original Hanna furnishings are no longer extant.
- D. Site:
- 1. General setting and orientation: The John Hanna House is arranged on a north-south axis with the south, or front, facade facing the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. A driveway, from Upper Lockport, separates the house from the river. The property is situated in flat lowlands and was traditionally used as a farm. The Hannas always owned a large property, so there was little development nearby, as is still the case.
  - 2. Historic landscape design: The surrounding landscape of the John Hanna House is defined by the river. The house is situated in the floodplain of the river, and the property has traditionally been used for farming. Historically, the Hannas grew wheat, oats, corn, and tobacco. They also raised dairy cows, sheep, and swine. Thus, the historic landscape is that of an agricultural complex.
  - 3. Outbuildings: A non-historic, two-story, four-bay garage consists of concrete-masonry block with aluminum siding. There is a one-story, early-twentieth-century, board-and-batten chicken coop attached to the garage with a tarpaper roof. Located north of the garage is a two-story tobacco barn, in poor condition, with vertical board walls and corrugated metal roofing, currently used as a chicken and turkey coop. According to the current owner, the tobacco barn used to be a larger building, but a section came down in a storm. Circa 1955, the owner removed a double corn crib, a pig pen, and an outhouse, all of which were in an advanced state of deterioration.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural drawings: None.
- B. Historic views: None.
- C. Interviews: Mr. Samuel Haussener, October 1991, Owner.



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D. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

*Clinton County Legal Records*. Located at the Clinton County Courthouse, Lock Haven, PA.

Deans, T.R. *Local Flood Protection, Lock Haven, Pennsylvania- Cultural and Archeological Resources Reconnaissance*. Prepared for the Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by Erdman, Anthony, and Associates, 1979.

Hannegan, Susan. *General History and Description of Clinton County, Preliminary Research Report, Clinton County Historic Sites Survey, 1985-86*. Harrisburg, PA: Bureau of Historic Preservation, 1986.

\_\_\_\_\_. *John Hanna House*. Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form 035-WW-072. Harrisburg, PA: Bureau of Historic Preservation, 6/20/1986.

U.S. Office of the Census. *Manuscript Agricultural Schedule, Woodward Township, Clinton County, Pennsylvania, 1850-1880*. Microfilm on file at the National Archives, Philadelphia Branch.

Vento, Frank J., Philip T. Fitzgibbons, Scott D. Heberling, and James Herbstritt. *Phase I Inventory Investigations of Potentially Significant Prehistoric and Historic Period Cultural Resources for the Lock Haven Flood Protection Project, Clinton County, Pennsylvania*. Prepared for the Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by Vendel Enviro-Industrial Consultants, 1989.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Linn, John Blair. *History of Centre and Clinton Counties*. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, 1883.

Lock Haven Express, *History of Monseytown, Fertile Farm Flats Above Lockport Area*, March 16, 1942.

Maynard, D.G. *Historical View of Clinton County*. Lock Haven, PA: The Enterprising Printing House, 1875.

Richie and Stranahan. *Map of Lock Haven, Flemington, and Lockport*. Philadelphia: Richie and Stranahan, 1869. Located at the Clinton County Historical Society.

Walling, H.F. *Map of Clinton County, PA*. New York: Way, Palmer, and Company, 1862.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

Documentation was undertaken in October and November 1991 in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum



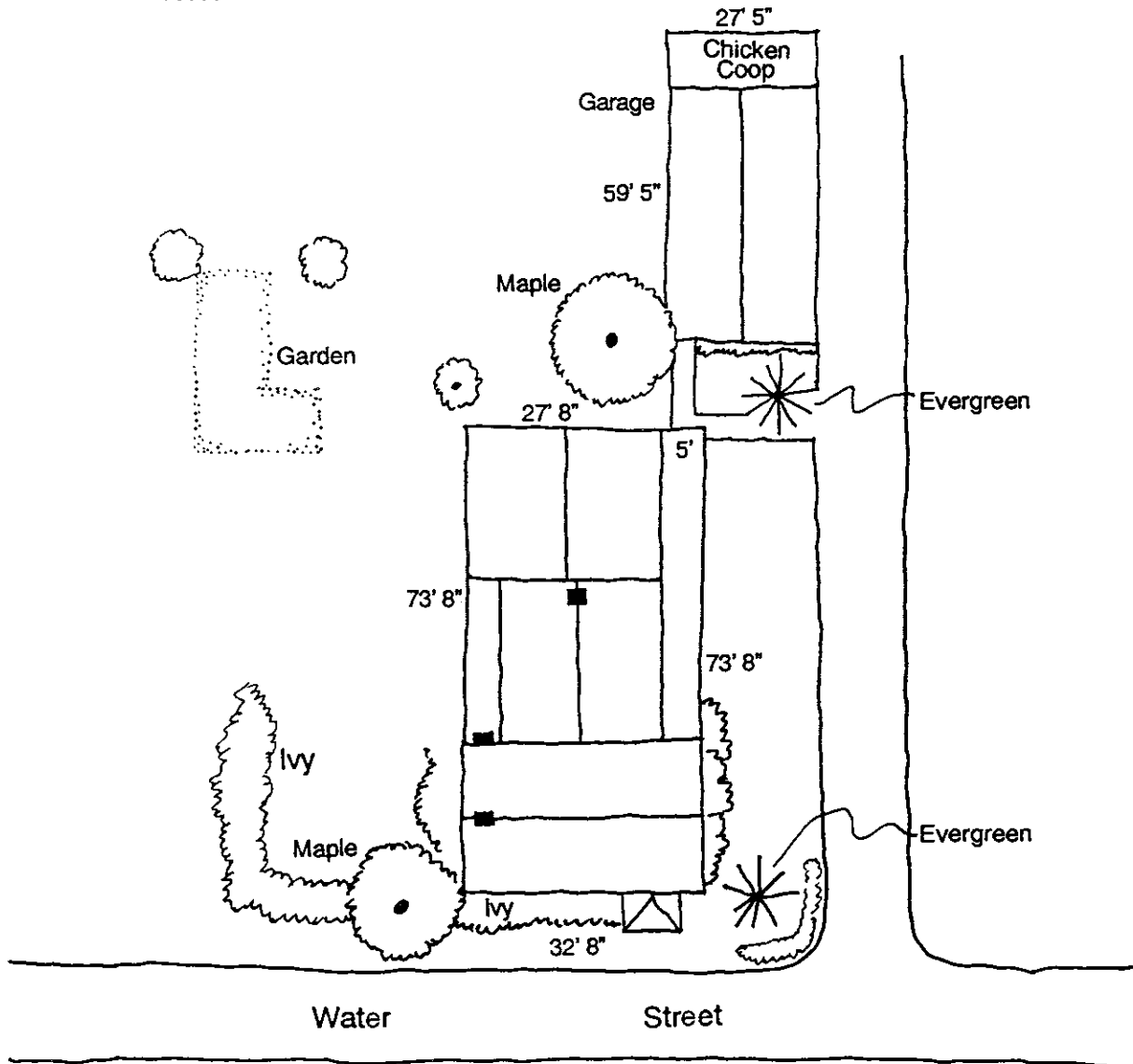
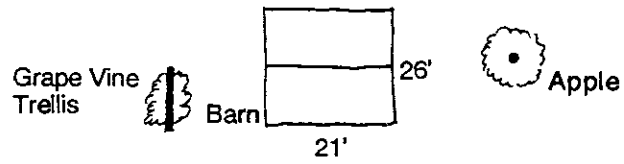
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Commission, and the Lock Haven Area Flood Protection Authority. The documentation serves as a mitigative measure for the treatment of historic properties that were identified and evaluated in a series of studies and that would be affected by the proposed Lock Haven flood protection project. The John Hanna House is slated for removal to accomodate an induced flooding zone. The house will be marketed for sale in an attempt to have it removed from the property. If the house cannot be sold, it will be marketed for architectural salvage. The last recourse for the house is demolition. Documentation was prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, by the Historic Preservation Group of Kise Franks & Straw, Inc., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: M. Todd Cleveland, project manager; Susan C. Nabors, historian; Martin B. Abbot, historian; and Jill Cremer, graphics. Robert Tucher provided the documentary photographs.



Pumpkin Patch

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Site Plan  
(Not to Scale)

West Branch Susquehanna River

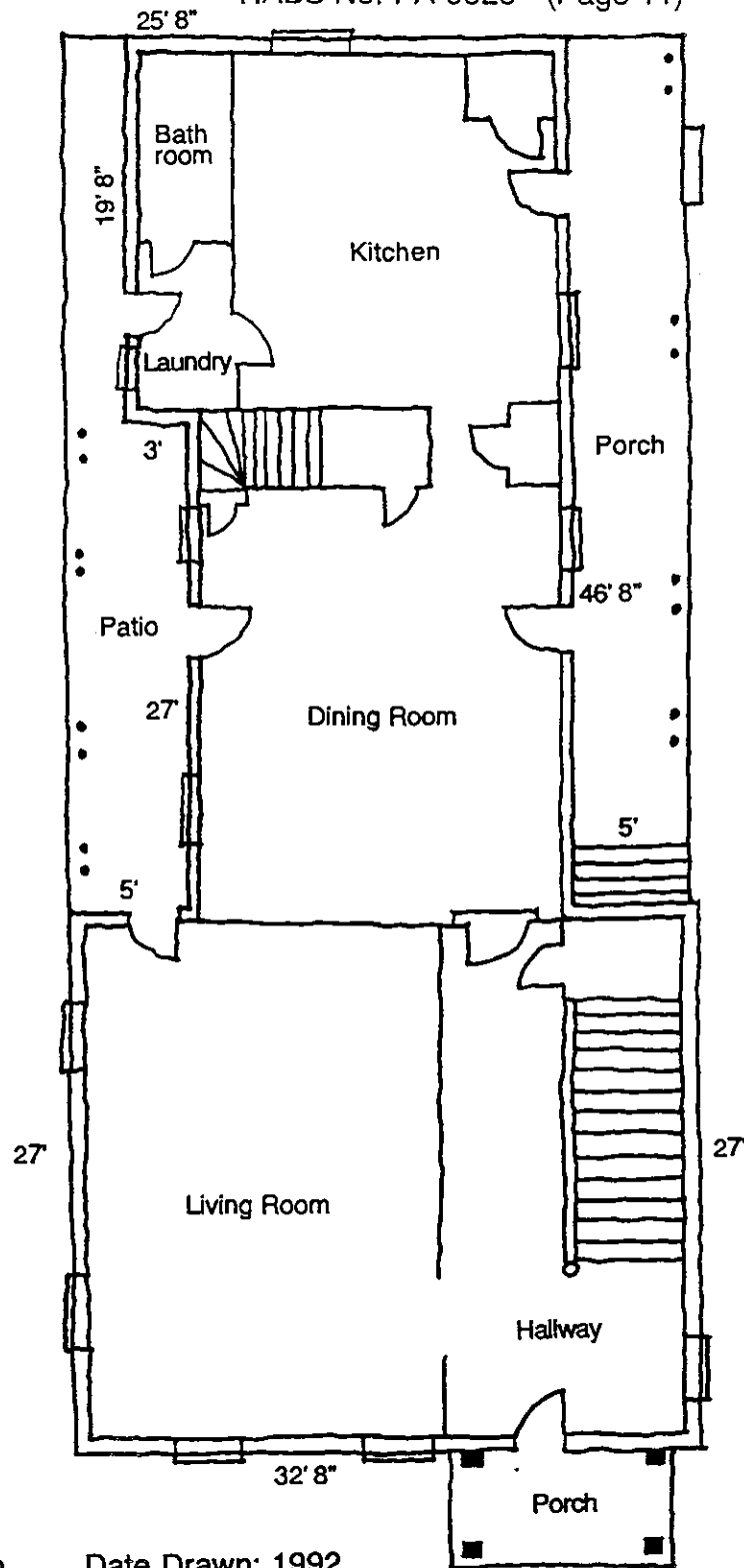
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NORTH

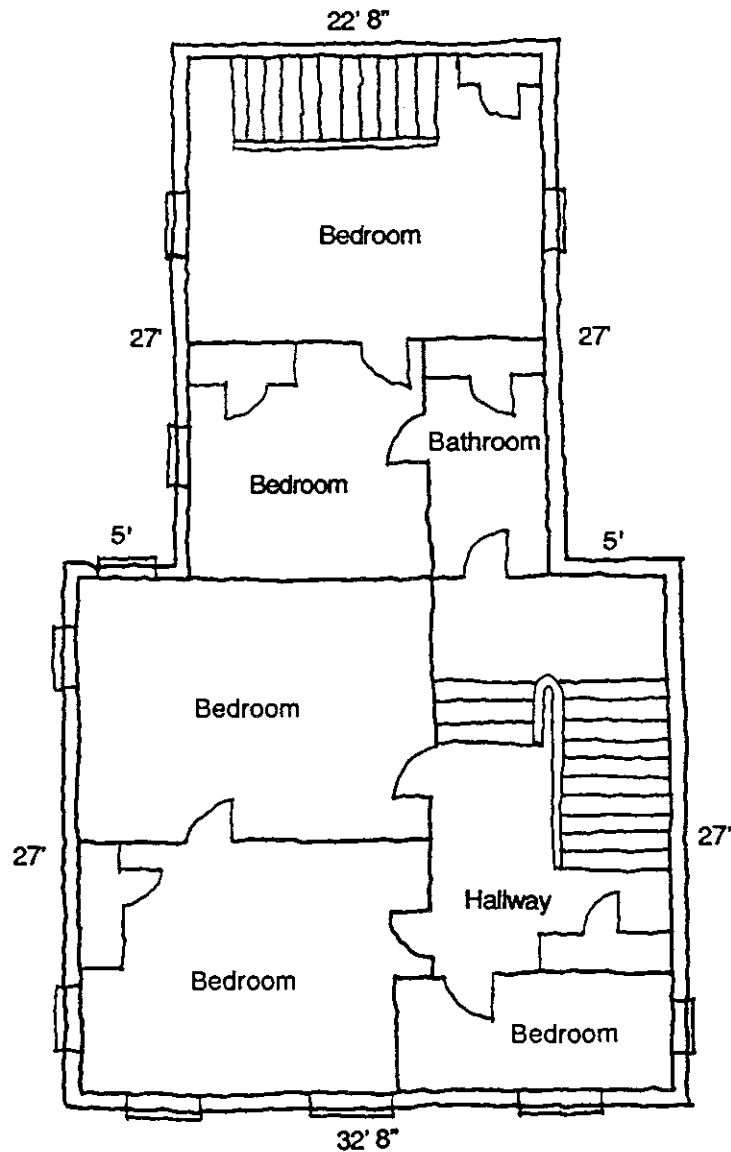


First Floor Plan  
(Not to Scale)

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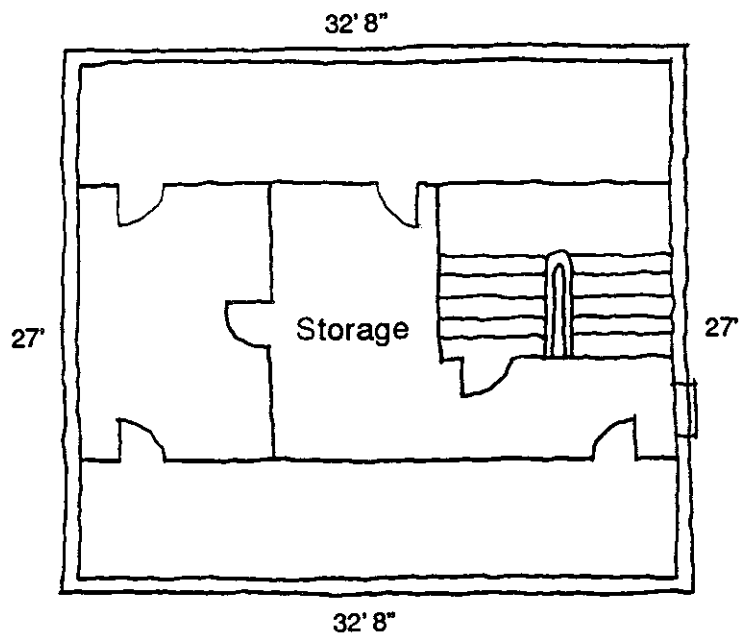


Second Floor Plan  
(Not to Scale)

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Third Floor Plan  
(Not to Scale)

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Prepared By: Jill Cremer